

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049741

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 049741

FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 505 ACTION SECSTATE 19 JAN

QUOTE

UNCLAS NAIROBI 0505

USIAC

SECSTATE FOR AF/E

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET BASE IN SOMALIA

REF FM NO 3 JAN, 9, 1976

1. INFLUENTIAL MAGAZINE WEEKLY REVIEW IN JANUARY 19 ISSUE SAYS USIS RELEASE ON SOVIET MISSILE BASE AT CHISIMAIO (KISMAYU) ON EVE OF OAU SUMMIT WAS CALCULATED TO SHORE UP KENYA'S STAND AGAINST SOVIETS AND MPLA. "KENYA NEEDED NO CONVINING ON THE ISSUE, BUT WASHINGTON THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS MAKE DOUBLY SURE, "MAGAZINE SAIDM ARTICLE CAST NO DOUBT ON VERACITY OF THE RELASE; ONLY QUESTIONED MOTIVES.

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2. "THIS REVELATION SEEMED CALCULATED TO WARN KENYAN AUTHORITIES OF THE DANGER OF RUSSIANS POSE TO THE SECURITY OF EASTERN AFRICA, BUT MAY ALSO HAVE BEN INTENDED TO DRAW KENYA'S ATTENTION MORE CLOSELY TO THE PRESENT ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOVIET UNION IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR. MOST NEUTRAL OBSERVERS, HOWEVER, DO NOT FEEL THAT THE SOVIET MISSILE INSTALLATIONS IN SOMALIA BY THEMSELVES POSE ANY REAL DANGER TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES... THEY ARE AGAINST AMERICAN SUBMARINES AND SHIPS, NOT AGAINST ANY AFRICAN STATE."
EM WEEKLY REVIEW EXPRESSED MORE CONCERN OVER SOMALIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD KENYA. "EVEN AS MOST KENYANS TENDED TO DISMISS THE PROPGANDA ELEMENT IN THE AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF YET ANOTHER SOVIET MISSILE BASE IN SOMALIA, SOME KENYAN OBSERVERS WERE EXPRESSING ANXIETY OVER SOMALIA'S MILITARY BUXLDUP AND WONDERING HOW LONG SOMALIA IS GOING TO KEEP ITS ARMAMENTS ON A PURELY DEFENSIVE LEVEL."

4. NAIROBI COULD PROFITABLY USE ANY FOLLOW-UP MATERIAL ON CHISIMAIO ACTIVITY.

CUSHING
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INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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To: NEW DELHI
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